

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend Page 8, third paragraph, beginning at line 15, continuing on to page 9, line 3 as follows:

The principle of moisture sensing of the sensors shown in Figures 1 A-B are the same. However, a bent fiber probe usually has higher sensitivity compared with a ~~strait~~ straight fiber probe. This is because there is more light leaking out of the fiber core to interact with the sensing material in the cladding layer in the bent part of the fiber as observed in Khijwania et al., Optical and Quantum Electronics, vol. 31, 635-636 (1999). Therefore the "U" bent fiber probe embodiment is used to describe the present invention in greater detail. This is for convenience only and is not intended to limit the application of the present invention. In fact, after reading the following description, it will be apparent to one skilled in the relevant art(s) how to implement the following invention in alternative embodiments (e.g., utilizing a straight optical fiber core or other configurations such as an "S" shape, serpentine, coil, angular, etc.)

At page 10, after line 4, please insert the following new paragraph:

Examples of silicate esters include tetramethyl orthosilicate and tetraethyl orthosilicate.

At page 18, after line 6, please add the following new paragraph:

One example of a silicone coating method includes dipping the optical fiber in a silicone rubber coating and drying the optical fiber for at least 24 hours. Another example includes preparing a mixture comprising a silicone elastomer and a curing agent, where such a mixture is diluted with toluene.